

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WFTU BUREAU MEETS IN NEW DELHI

1. THE DECEMBER 3-4 MEETING OF THE WFTU'S BUREAU IN NEW
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DELHI DID NOT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, PRODUCE ANY SURPRISES.

IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS A THEME, IT WAS THE CALL FOR WORKERS' UNITY. GENERAL SECRETARY PIERRE GENSOUS, IN ONE OF HIS SEVERAL PRESS BRIEFINGS, SAID THAT THE BUREAU DIRECTED THE SECRETARIAT TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ICFTU AND THE WCL TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' DEMANDS FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ICFTU WAS DISINCLINED TO PARTICIPATE. THE BUREAU ANNOUNCED THAT THE WEEK OF JANUARY 17, 1977 WOULD BE OBSERVED BY WFTU AFFILIATES AS A "WEEK OF SOLIDARITY" WITH THE WORKERS AND PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA. GENSOUS STATED THAT THE CALL FOR THIS WEEK HAD COME SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM THE WFTU AND THE ICFTU. THE WCL WAS EXPECTED TO JOIN SHORTLY.

2. AS REPORTED BRUSSELS 11666, THE ICFTU AT ITS NOVEMBER 24-26 BOARD MEETING ENDORSED A "WEEK OF ACTION" STARTING JANUARY 17 TO PROTEST TRADE UNION REPRESSION IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE EMBASSY, ICFTU ARO SECRETARY V. S. MATHUR REFUTED THE IMPRESSION CREATED BY GENSOUS' REMARKS THAT THE ICFTU HAD UNDERTAKEN A JOINT PROGRAM WITH THE WFTU. HE EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS SIMPLY A CASE OF THE WFTU'S NOW ATTEMPTING TO GET ON THE BAND-WAGON.

3. THE WFTU BUREAU ADOPTED A NUMBER OF PREDICTABLE RESOLUTIONS WHICH, INTER ALIA, DEALT WITH THAILAND (THE "IMPERIALIST INSPIRED MILITARY COUP" WAS CONDEMNED), CHILE, THE DEFEAT OF THE US IN INDO-CHINA, THE WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA, THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE, AND THE DECISIONS OF THE COLOMBO NAC ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

4. THE ASIAN AFFILIATES OF THE WFTU MET FOR TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE BUREAU'S SESSIONS AND ALSO CALLED FOR "UNITED ACTIONS BY AFFILIATES AND NON-AFFILIATED, INDEPENDENT AND OTHER TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS ALL OVER..." "SOLIDARITY STRUGGLES" WERE CALLED FOR TO PROMOTE THE REUNIFICATION OF KOREA AND TO CONDEMN THE "IMPRISONMENT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN INDONESIA AND ITS ANNEXATION OF EAST TIMOR..." THE FULL BUREAU CALLED FOR THE CONVENING OF "UNITED ASIAN TRADE UNION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFERENCE."

5. THE WFTU SESSIONS RECEIVED GOOD LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE, AND THE DELEGATES WERE RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER GANDHI. SHE TOOK THE OCCASION TO STATE: "WE ARE NOT FOR NATIONALIZATION FOR THE SAKE OF NATIONALIZATION." SHE EXPLAINED THAT INDIA'S EXPERIENCE WITH NATIONALIZATION HAD NOT BEEN GOOD IN CERTAIN FIELDS AND BLAMED THE BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM INHERITED FROM THE

BRITISH. (COMMENT: MRS. GANDHI'S REMARKS HARDLY SQUARE WITH THE USUAL WFTU PRESCRIPTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.")

6. ACCORDING TO AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTUC (THE LABOR CONFEDERATION OF THE RULING CONGRESS PARTY AND AN ICFTU AFFILIATE), THE INTUC HAS DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN WFTU CONFERENCES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE WFTU CONTINUES TO MAKE OVERTURES TO THE INTUC. THE INTUC WEEKLY, "INDIAN WORKER," DID CARRY AN ARTICLE ON THE WFTU MEETING, AND TWO INTUC OFFICERS, INCLUDING ICFTU VICE PRESIDENT J.C. DIXIT, ATTENDED A WFTU DINNER ON DECEMBER 3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WHILE THE COMRADES WERE BEING DINED, INTUC PRESIDENT BHAGAVATI WAS ATTENDING A RECEPTION AT THE HOME OF THE LABOR COUNSELOR. SCHNEIDER

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